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Ayo & Casibari: Aruba's famous rock formations



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Appeals court restores DOGE access to sensitive information at U.S. agencies

By LEA SKENE

Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — An appeals court on Monday cleared the way for billionaire Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency to once again access people's private data at three federal agencies, a win for the Trump administration as the underlying lawsuit plays out. In a split ruling, the three-judge panel blocked a lower court decision that halted DOGE access at the Education Department, the Treasury Department and the Office of Personnel Management. U.S. District Judge Deborah Boardman issued a preliminary injunction last month in federal court in Baltimore, saying the government failed to adequately explain why DOGE needed the information to perform its job duties. Led by the American Federation of Teachers, the plaintiffs allege the Trump administration violated federal privacy laws when it gave DOGE access to systems with personal information on tens of millions of Americans without their consent, including people's income and asset information, Social Security numbers, birth dates, home



Elon Musk attends the finals for the NCAA wrestling championship, Saturday, March 22, 2025, in Philadelphia.

addresses and marital and citizenship status. The Trump administration says DOGE is targeting waste across the federal government by addressing alleged fraud and upgrading technology. The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has also sided with the Trump administration in other cases, including allowing DOGE access to U.S. Agency for International Development and letting

executive orders against diversity, equity and inclusion move forward. The court left in place, however, an order temporarily blocking DOGE from the Social Security Administration, which contains vast amounts of personal information. In Monday's opinion, Judge G. Steven Agee of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals wrote that Boardman's decision misread legal precedent in "requir-

ing nothing more than abstract access to personal information to establish a concrete injury." As a result, Agee wrote, the government demonstrated "a strong showing that it is likely to succeed on the merits of their appeal." Agee, a nominee of Republican President George W. Bush, was joined in his opinion by Judge Julius Richardson, who was nominated to the bench in 2018 by Re-

publican President Donald Trump. They agreed to stay the preliminary injunction as the case proceeds. In his concurring opinion, Richardson wrote that more evidence is needed to establish whether the access is necessary. "But it does not stretch the imagination to think that modernizing an agency's software and IT systems would require administrator-level access to those systems, including any internal databases," he wrote. The third judge disagreed. "Simply put, I think the district court got things right," Judge Robert King wrote in his dissenting opinion. King, who was nominated by Democratic President Bill Clinton, said he requested a larger panel of all 4th Circuit judges to consider the case, but the request was denied. The lawsuit accused the Trump administration of handing over sensitive data for reasons beyond its intended use, violating the Privacy Act. Instead of carrying out the functions of the federal student loan program, the lawsuit says, DOGE has been accessing loan data "for purposes of destroying" the Education Department. □

Associated Press

U.S. bishops halt partnerships with federal government on aid programs, citing funding cuts

By PETER SMITH

Associated Press

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops announced Monday that it

is ending a half-century of partnerships with the federal government to serve refugees and children, saying the "heartbreaking"

decision follows the Trump administration's abrupt halt to funding for refugee resettlement.

The break will inevitably result in fewer services than what Catholic agencies were able to offer in the past to the needy, the bishops said.

"As a national effort, we simply cannot sustain the work on our own at current levels or in current form," said Archbishop Timothy Broglio, president of the USCCB.

"We will work to identify alternative means of support for the people the federal government has already admitted to these programs. We ask your prayers

for the many staff and refugees impacted."

The decision means the bishops won't be renewing existing agreements with the federal government, the bishops said. The announcement did not say how long current agreements were scheduled to last.

Catholic bishops sued President Donald Trump's administration in February over its abrupt halt to the funding of aid provided to newly arrived refugees, saying they are owed millions already allocated by Congress to carry out resettlement aid under agreement with the federal government.

But a federal judge ruled that he couldn't order the government to pay money due on a contract, saying a contractual dispute belongs before the Court of Federal Claims. The bishops have appealed that ruling.

Beyond that specific funding dispute is the Trump administration's halt to all new refugee arrivals. The Catholic bishops oversaw one of 10 national agencies, most of them faith-based, which contracted with the federal government to resettle refugees who come to the U.S. legally after being vetted and approved by the federal government. □



Catholic bishops lead a march in solidarity with migrants, Monday, March 24, 2025, in downtown El Paso, Texas.

Associated Press

Trump says the U.S. will hold direct talks with Iran as he insists Tehran can't get nuclear weapons

By AAMER MADHANI and TIA GOLDENBERG
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Monday that the U.S. is holding direct talks with Iran about its nuclear program.

The president, in comments to reporters after meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, said the talks with Tehran would start Saturday. He insisted Tehran can't get nuclear weapons.

"We're dealing with them directly and maybe a deal is going to be made," Trump said. He added that "doing a deal would be preferable to doing the obvious."

Trump said the talks would happen "at almost the highest level."

He announced plans for the surprise engagement as Netanyahu made a hastily arranged visit to the White House his second in just over two months to discuss the tariffs Trump has unleashed on countries around the world, Iran's nuclear program and the Israel-Hamas war.

Trump during his first White House term withdrew the U.S. from the landmark



Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is greeted by President Donald Trump as he arrives at the West Wing of the White House in Washington, Monday, April 7, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

nuclear accord with Iran negotiated by Democratic President Barack Obama's administration.

At the time, Trump declared he was making the world safer, but he also deepened his isolation on the world stage and revived doubts about American credibility.

The 2015 agreement, which also included Britain, China, France, Germany and

Russia, had lifted most U.S. and international economic sanctions against Iran.

"I think it'll be, different and maybe a lot stronger," Trump said on how a new deal might be different from the one negotiated by Obama officials.

Trump greeted the Israeli prime minister with a firm handshake as he arrived for talks on Monday afternoon.

Trump and Netanyahu said they discussed tensions with Iran, Israel-Turkey ties and the International Criminal Court, which issued an arrest warrant against the Israeli leader last year. Trump in February signed an executive order imposing sanctions on the ICC over its investigations of Israel.

Ahead of his meeting with Netanyahu, Trump held a

call with French President Emmanuel Macron, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and Jordan's King Abdullah II. All three leaders have been key interlocutors in efforts to tamp down tensions in the Middle East and bring an end to the Israel-Hamas war.

The prime minister soon after arriving in Washington on Sunday evening met with senior Trump administration officials, Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick and U.S. Trade Representative Jameson Greer, to discuss the tariffs. And Netanyahu met on Monday with Steve Witkoff, Trump's special envoy to the Middle East, ahead of his sit down with the president.

On tariffs, Netanyahu said he assured Trump that his government would move to erase United States trade deficit.

"We will eliminate the trade deficit with the United States," Netanyahu said "We intend to do it very quickly."

Eytan Gilboa, an expert on U.S.-Israel relations, said he expected Trump to use the tariffs as leverage to force concessions from Netanyahu. □

Justice Department seeks to restrict testimony of fired pardon attorney

By ERIC TUCKER and ALANNA DURKIN RICHER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department is attempting to use executive privilege to prevent its fired pardon attorney from telling Congress about the circumstances of her departure, and dispatched armed deputy U.S. marshals to her home to deliver restrictions on her testimony, according to letters made public on Monday. Liz Oyer, who has said she was fired as the department's pardon attorney last month after refusing a request to recommend that actor Mel Gibson's

gun rights be restored, is among several witnesses invited to appear Monday before a joint hearing of House and Senate lawmakers.

The hearing, which among other witnesses is to feature a former public corruption prosecutor who resigned under protest amid the Justice Department's dismissal of its case against New York Mayor Eric Adams, will represent the first time in the new Trump administration that newly departed Justice Department lawyers have spoken publicly before Congress about the circumstances of their departures and

their concerns with leadership of the federal law enforcement agency.

Ahead of the hearing,

the Justice Department warned Oyer that any testimony about deliberations concerning the

pardon process and the restoration of gun rights would run afoul of executive privilege, a legal principle that broadly refers to a president's power to keep information from the courts, Congress and the public to protect the confidentiality of presidential decision-making.

That admonition was communicated in a letter that was to have been delivered to Oyer's home late Friday night by deputy marshals, according to a separate letter from her lawyer, Michael Bromwich, who described the episode as a "deplorable incident." □



Former Justice Department attorneys Liz Oyer, left, and Ryan Crosswell participate in a hearing on the Justice Department on Capitol Hill in Washington, Monday, April 7, 2025.

Associated Press

Maine sues the Trump administration over funding freeze after dispute over transgender athletes

By **PATRICK WHITTLE**

Associated Press

SCARBOROUGH, Maine

(AP) — Maine officials sued the administration of President Donald Trump on Monday to try to stop the government from freezing federal money in the wake of a dispute over transgender athletes in sports.

Trump and Maine, which is controlled by Democrats, are in the midst of a weeks long dispute about the Title IX anti-discrimination law and the participation of transgender students in high school sports. U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins said earlier this month that the U.S. Department of Agriculture was pausing some funds for Maine educational programs because of what she described as Maine's failure to comply with the Title IX law.

Maine Attorney General Aaron Frey filed a complaint in federal court on



Democratic Gov. Janet Mills delivers her State of the State address, Jan. 30, 2024, at the State House in Augusta, Maine.

Associated Press

Monday that described the pause as "illegally withholding grant funds that go to keeping children fed."

The lawsuit seeks a temporary restraining order

preventing the USDA from withholding money until a court is able to hear the case.

In a statement, Frey said, the president and his Cabi-

net "secretaries do not make the law and they are not above the law, and this action is necessary to remind the president that Maine will not be bullied

into violating the law."

The child nutrition program of the Maine Department of Education is unable to access several sources of funding at the moment because of the funding pause, Frey said. The money is used to feed children in schools, childcare centers and after-school programs and is also used to benefit disabled adults in congregate settings, he said.

The lawsuit states that the child nutrition program received or was due to receive more than \$1.8 million for the current fiscal year. Prior year funds that were awarded but are currently inaccessible total more than \$900,000, the lawsuit states.

The lawsuit also says that the program was anticipating about \$3 million that is typically awarded every July for summer meal program sponsor administration and meal reimbursement. □

Chief Justice Roberts pauses deadline for return of Maryland man mistakenly deported to El Salvador

By **MARK SHERMAN**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Chief Justice John Roberts agreed Monday to pause a midnight deadline for the Trump administration to return a Maryland man mistakenly deported to a notorious prison in El Salvador. The temporary order comes hours after a Justice De-

partment emergency appeal to the Supreme Court arguing U.S. District Judge Paula Xinis overstepped her authority when she ordered Kilmar Abrego Garcia returned to the United States.

The administration has conceded that Abrego Garcia should not have been sent to El Salvador because an

immigration judge found he likely would face persecution by local gangs. But he is no longer in U.S. custody and the government has no way to get him back, the administration argued.

Xinis gave the administration until just before midnight to "facilitate and effectuate" Abrego Garcia's return.

"The district court's injunction which requires Abrego Garcia's release from the custody of a foreign sovereign and return to the United States by midnight on Monday is patently unlawful," Solicitor General D. John Sauer wrote in court papers, casting the order as one in "a deluge of unlawful injunctions" judges have issued to slow President Donald Trump's agenda.

The Justice Department appeal was directed to Roberts because he handles appeals from Maryland.

The Trump administration is separately asking the Supreme Court to allow Trump to resume deportations of Venezuelan migrants accused of being gang members to the same Salvadoran prison under an 18th century wartime law.

The federal appeals court in Richmond, Virginia, denied the administration's request for a stay. "There is no question that the government screwed up here," Judge J. Harvie Wilkinson wrote in a brief opinion accompanying the unanimous denial.

The White House has described Abrego Garcia's deportation as an "administrative error" but has also cast him an MS-13 gang member. Attorneys for Abrego Garcia said there is no evidence he was in MS-13.

"The Executive branch may not seize individuals from the streets, deposit them in foreign prisons in viola-

tion of court orders, and then invoke the separation of powers to insulate its unlawful actions from judicial scrutiny," Abrego Garcia's lawyers wrote in a response filed moments after Roberts issued his temporary pause. Xinis wrote that the decision to arrest him and send him to El Salvador appears to be "wholly lawless," explaining that little to no evidence supports a "vague, uncorroborated" allegation that Abrego Garcia was once an MS-13 member.

Abrego Garcia, a 29-year-old Salvadoran national who has never been charged or convicted of any crime, was detained by immigration agents and deported last month.

He had a permit from DHS to legally work in the U.S. and was a sheet metal apprentice pursuing a journeyman license, his attorney said. His wife is a U.S. citizen. □



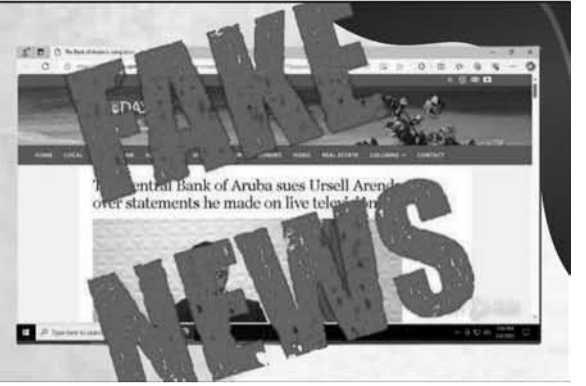
President Donald Trump, center, greets Chief Justice of the Supreme Court John Roberts, right, as he arrives to address a joint session of Congress at the Capitol in Washington, March 4, 2025.

Associated Press

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Garbage piles up on streets of UK's second-largest city after month long sanitation strike

By BRIAN MELLEY
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — There is a stink rising over the United Kingdom's second-largest city.

Garbage has piled up for a month in Birmingham during a dispute between the city and its trash collectors. It is a sore sight for eyes and offensive to the nose. Mountains of garbage are said to be visible from space and people have complained of seeing rats as big as cats in the refuse. "You can see the juice flowing out of the bags onto the road. It stinks," Naeem Yousef said. "It's bringing down the areas. People are saying, 'Look at these areas, how dirty these people are.'"

Talks on Monday failed to reach an agreement but were scheduled to resume Tuesday as the strike enters its fifth week.

Members of Unite, the union representing garbage truck workers, walked



An aerial view of furniture and uncollected refuse bags in east Birmingham, England, Tuesday, April 1, 2025, amid an ongoing refuse workers' strike in the city.

Associated Press

off the job March 11 over the elimination of a job position and painful pay cuts. The council said it's made a reasonable offer, that cuts would only affect a small number of jobs and the jobs being eliminated are unnecessary.

The Labour-run Birmingham

City Council is effectively bankrupt because of a settlement over historic pay discrimination. As a result, it's had to make significant budget cuts of 300 million pounds (\$383 million) over two years and is only providing services required by law, including waste col-

lection.

As heaps of black bags littered sidewalks with their contents spilling out of holes chewed by critters, the city council declared a major incident to bring in additional cleanup crews and vehicles.

Photos on news sites and

social media show furniture, mattresses and car bumpers illegally dumped alongside bulging trash bags. In one neighborhood, garbage sacks were set ablaze.

The U.K.'s Labour government has come under fire from opposition parties because of the problem, but Angela Rayner, deputy prime minister, told members of the House of Commons that it's a local issue and the government was pressing the two sides to reach an agreement.

"Our priority is tackling the misery and disruption for residents," Angela Rayner said. "It is essential to protect public health by tackling the backlog of waste." Kevin Hollinrake, a Conservative member of Parliament, said the situation was "a national embarrassment" and could become a public health emergency with warm temperatures forecast later in the week. □

Dutch cannabis growers welcome expansion of state-run experiment to make sales legal

By MOLLY QUELL
Associated Press

BEMMEL, Netherlands (AP) — The Netherlands expanded a government-run initiative on Monday allowing legal cannabis sales.

While growing cannabis is still illegal, cannabis shops known as coffeeshops in 10 municipalities will be allowed to sell marijuana from 10 licensed producers.

"Weed was sold here legally for 50 years, but the production was never legal. So it's finally time to end that crazy, unexplainable situation and make it a legal professional sector," Rick Bakker, commercial director at Hollandse Hoogtes, one of the regulated producers, told The Associated Press.

Some 80 coffeeshops are taking part in the experiment which advocates hope

this will ultimately end a long-standing legal anomaly you can buy and sell small amounts of weed without fear of prosecution in the Netherlands, but growing it commercially remains illegal.

Bakker's company in Bommel, near the German border, is indistinguishable from the surrounding greenhouses producing tomatoes and peppers. But it makes 200 kilograms (440 pounds) of weed per week and is one of the largest producers in the experiment.

A trailblazer in decriminalizing pot since the 1970s, the Netherlands has grown more conservative. Amsterdam, long a magnet for marijuana smokers, has been closing coffeeshops in recent years and has banned smoking weed on some of the cobbled streets that make up its historic center. □



Cannabis plants sit in the Hollandse Hoogtes growing facility in Bommel, Netherlands, Monday, April 7, 2025.

Associated Press

Dominican Republic to crack down harder on migrants as Haitians flee violence

By **MARTÍN ADAMES AL-CÁNTARA**

Associated Press

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) —

Dominican President Luis Abinader has announced more than a dozen measures to crack down on migrants who have entered the Dominican Republic illegally as people in neighboring Haiti flee a surge in gang violence.

The measures that Abinader qualified as “painful but necessary” in a speech Sunday include charging patients for hospital services and sanctioning those who rent homes or commercial businesses to migrants who lack proper documentation.

“The rights of Dominicans will not be displaced. Our identity will not be diluted. Our generosity will not be exploited. Here, solidarity has limits,” Abinader said.

He said that starting on April 21, hospital staff will be required to ask patients for their identification, work permit and proof of residence.

If a patient is unable to present any of those documents, they will receive medical attention and then



Supporters of the Antigua Orden Dominicana nationalist group take part in march against immigration at a Haitian settlement called “El Hoyo de Friusa” in Bavaro, Dominican Republic, Sunday, March 30, 2025.

Associated Press

be deported immediately, Abinader said, adding that a migration agent will be stationed at every hospital to ensure compliance.

The government also will deploy an additional 1,500 soldiers to the border that the Dominican Republic shares with Haiti on the island of Hispaniola, boosting the total number of personnel stationed there to 11,000, Abinader said.

He also announced he would speed up construction of a border wall to add another eight miles (13 kilometers) to the 34 miles (54 kilometers) already built.

“I recognize that many are concerned about the threat Haiti poses. Concerned about the irregular migration it causes. Concerned about the burden this places on our hospitals, our schools, the risks to our

security, and the strain on our economy,” Abinader said. So far, his administration has deported more than 180,000 suspected undocumented migrants since it announced in October that it would deport 10,000 of them a week. Human rights activists and dozens of those who have been deported have accused the government of abuse, including breaking

into homes without a warrant to arrest people.

Abinader also announced that legislators would debate a new bill calling for stricter penalties against those who help migrants cross into the Dominican Republic illegally.

“The violence that is destroying Haiti will not cross over to the Dominican Republic,” Abinader said.

The president added he would try to have businesses hire only Dominican workers in certain sectors.

“For far too long, agriculture and construction have depended on illegal workers,” he said.

Abinader spoke a week after an ultranationalist movement organized a protest in a Dominican community where many Haitians live to demand that the government impose measures against illegal migration as it threatened to hold a national protest if its demands were not met.

Abinader’s announcement also comes as gangs in Haiti that control at least 85% of the capital, Port-au-Prince, continue to attack once-peaceful communities in a bid to control more territory. □

Medical charity reports 6 cases of malnourished children in Greek island migrant camp

By **ELENA BECATOROS**

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — A medical charity working in Greece says it has diagnosed six young children living in a migrant facility on the eastern Aegean island of Samos as suffering from malnutrition, the first time its doctors have made such a diagnosis since the facility opened in 2021.

The Greek section of Doctors Without Borders, also known by its French acronym MSF, said Monday its staff had diagnosed the children, who are aged between 6 months and 6 years old, with moderate to severe acute malnutrition and in need of immediate

medical intervention.

“Children make up about 25% of the (camp’s) population, yet pediatric care remains insufficient, not

only within the center but on the entire island of Samos,” MSF Greece’s Director General Christina Psarra said in a news release.



A facility for migrants and refugees stands in Zervou village on the eastern Aegean island of Samos, Greece, Oct. 1, 2021.

Associated Press

The six children, who hailed from Afghanistan and Syria, all arrived in the camp with their families within the last two to three months, and it was not possible to determine whether they had already been suffering from malnutrition before they arrived, Psarra told The Associated Press.

However, “definitely the conditions in the camp have made things more difficult and have had an aggravating effect,” she said. Asked about the MSF claims, the Ministry of Migration and Asylum said it would have a response later Monday.

Psarra said that while meals were provided for

the camp’s residents, the diet “is not nutritious for children of this age.” The situation was exacerbated by the severance nine months ago of a stipend provided to asylum seekers in Greece, which had allowed them to purchase fresh food and other basic necessities, she added.

Officially designated as a “closed controlled access center,” the European Union-funded migrant camp in Samos, built on a hillside about 8 kilometers (5 miles) from the island’s main port of Vathy, was opened in 2021 to replace a massively overcrowded camp that had developed on the town’s fringes. □

The Lionfish

And its threat to our marine wild life

(Oranjestad)—Despite its colorful and striking appearance, the lionfish has become a Caribbean-wide problem for Atlantic sea life. The Aruban marine wild life is also affected by this beautiful dilemma, as it is foreign to our waters and has become a danger to our local fish and reefs.

Originating from the Indo-Pacific Ocean, the lionfish is a relatively small fish. It has no teeth, but it does protect itself against predators using its sharp, colorful spikes. It is said that the sting of a lionfish can be up to 100 times

more painful than that of a bee's sting.

Its natural predators in the Indo-Pacific are sharks and barracudas, but in the Caribbean Sea, local fish do not recognize the lionfish as part of their diet. In other words, the lionfish has no predators in the Caribbean Sea. And this becomes a major problem for our local marine life; if there are no predators to stimulate population control of lionfish, these fish can continue to reproduce and expand to other parts of the Atlantic, become more invasive and dangerous for other



types of fish.

For Aruba, the lionfish is a problem especially for our local coral reefs. According to Patrick van Brakel, lionfish expert and hunter from the Hunting Lionfish Aruba foundation, every reef has a "cleaning station"—tiny fish that eat algae and other types of waste on a reef, thus maintaining the reef's health and providing food to the fish population in the area. However, as the lionfish feeds off of these tiny fish, it becomes harder for the coral reef to maintain its health.

Patrick also shares the origins of lionfish in the Caribbean Sea. It is theorized that the in-

troduction of these fish in the Atlantic happened in Florida, where people would buy lionfish from across the world to keep in their aquariums. However, lionfish grow, and as these buyers realized that the fish were too much upkeep, they were let out into the ocean to roam free. From continental USA, the lionfish travelled to and invaded the entire Caribbean area, from Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao up to New York. In Aruba, lionfish were discovered in 2009.

Controlling the lionfish population is challenge, as each female fish can lay up to 40,000 eggs a day. Luckily, we have people like van

Brakel who dedicate their lives hunting and capturing these invasive species, using them for consumption and jewelry making.

They are caught with a hand spear, an object resembling a garbage picker with 4 sharp prongs. These spears are used like a sling shot to catch lionfish from a distance. These fish are then put into a collecting tube and taken out of the water. Van Brakel not only catches them himself, but also cooks them for locals and tourists at The LionFish Snack Aruba in Paradera. This way, he does his part in protecting the local wild life. □



Ayo & Casibari: Aruba's famous rock formations

(Oranjestad)—The Ayo and Casibari Rock Formations are known locally as one of the crucial sites to have in your "off-road" trip itinerary. These naturally formed rock formations as just one of the few places on the island that hold a rich history of our culture and of our ancestors.

Ayo

The Ayo Rock Formation is located in the northern part of the island, right on the road that leads you to the Black Stone Beach, and close to the Natural Bridge. The Ayo is a fenced terrain that consists of several giant boulders, resting neatly on top of or side by side each other, adding gorgeous natural architecture to the surrounding "mondi"*. This



is also one of the few sites to contain prehistoric markings of our indigenous ancestors. The Ayo Rock formation contains stairs that lead you to the top of the highest boulder, offering a breath-taking view of the Aruban backyard. The Ayo is usually quiet, as it is situated farther away from the busier parts of the island. However, this is just another charm of the site: the quiet area and the refresh-

ing breeze offer a sense of comfort and peace.

Casibari

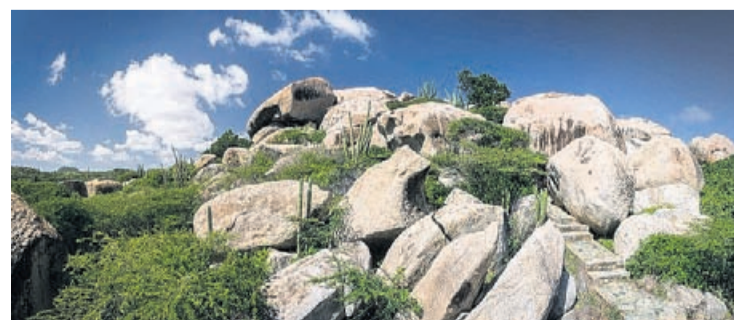
Probably the busier rock formation site, the Casibari is situated more in the center of the island, much closer—and more accessible—to the general public. Just like Ayo, Casibari is a fenced area containing several boulders that lay on top or lean on each other. The best aspect of

the Casibari Rock Formation is the accompanying view when you climb up the top of the round, flat bolder. For this position, you can see the majority of the island and the ocean in the south. Right in front of the entrance, there is the Casibari Café and Grill, a great place to get refreshments and snack before continuing your off-road adventure!

Both sites are open free to

the public, 24 hours a day. However, unless you are taking a trip with a professional tour guide, there are no guides at the sites to help you climb the rock. So, do be careful when trudging on the boulders, and make sure to befriend any roaming goats you see along the way! □

***Mondi: what we call our Aruban wilderness. We don't have forests, or deserts, but we do have mondi!**







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Aruba: The island of Aloes

ORANJESTAD – Aloe vera, a succulent plant species, is renowned for its incredible properties for the skin. It is widely distributed and usually grows in tropical, semi-tropical and arid climates on the planet. But this plant also had a very prominent role in the history of Aruba, and its significance to the island's economy endures to this day.

The leaves of Aloe vera contain a good amount of gel which when used topically, is great for the skin. Traditionally, Arubans use this gel to treat minor burns and other skin



ailments, or just to keep skin supple and looking bright and nourished. Aside from the gel, aloe contains a bitter, yellow substance (called aloin) which is a gentle but powerful laxative, and it is also the origin of the industry of aloe in Aruba.

According to the website of Royal Aruba Aloe, Aloe vera was introduced in Aruba around 1840, when most of the island's inhabitants were farmers of little means. Dutch Governor Van Raders introduced the plant after it had been introduced in other islands of the Caribbean to cultivate and harvest the aloe to produce the laxative.

Around 1920, about two-thirds of Aruba was aloe fields, earning our island the nickname "The Island of Aloes."

Under Commander Jan Helenus Ferguson (1866-1871), aloe experienced a boom, which is why there is a road named after him, which goes through the aloe fields. In the 19th century, Aruba was the main

supplier of aloin for laxative, which was imported abroad to the United States and Europe. The aloin from Aruba and Curaçao was known to be one of the best in the world and was more expensive, which meant that at the time, it had significant economic impact, particularly for the local farmers.

However, by the time the oil industry arrived on Aruba, it changed the labor market on Aruba, shifting away from agriculture. It would be after World War II that aloe would make a comeback. And eventually, as science learned about the amazing properties of aloe gel, the industry shifted from producing laxative to producing skin care. An interesting fact is that in 1951, the production of Aruban aloe amounted to around 30 percent of the total global production!

The impact and relevance of aloe is visible all around Aruba. While most homes will have a few plants for personal use and decoration, houses are also decorat-



ed with aloe motifs, and at some point, aloe even featured on post stamps. Around 1920, about two-thirds of Aruba was aloe fields, earning our island the nickname "The Island of Aloes." And in 1955, the aloe became a part of Aruba's coat of arms, symbolizing prosperity for the island. □

Images from the archive of the National Library of Aruba.

Adriaan Laclé

One of Aruba's richest men in the twentieth century

(Oranjestad)—The name Adriaan Laclé may ring a bell to locals as one of the bigger roads on the island, but about a century ago, Adriaan Laclé was a rich businessman, well-known for his generosity, wealth, and taste.

Adriaan was born in 1866 and was the eldest of six children. Not much is known about his childhood upbringing or any of his earlier business ordeals, but during his heyday he often helped people get loans, was a well-established trader, and owned several plots of land. In fact, he commissioned the construction of the famous La Quinta Carmen manor—now a restaurant. Though he himself never lived in the beautiful manor, his own house also reflected his success and good taste. Today his house still stands in good condition and can be found in the back streets of main street Oranjestad.



Regarding his personal life, it has been said that he was married twice during his lifetime. He had his first daughter during his first marriage but lost his wife soon after her birth.



During his second marriage, he fathered 16 children. However, it has been said that only 11 of those 17 made it past 18 years of age. Perhaps two of his most well-known daughters are Maria Monica Laclé and Maria Veneranda Laclé, who went on to marry successful brothers Eloy Arends and Maximilian Arends, respectively. Their houses are still standing; Eloy and Maria Monica's

mansion functions as a townhall, used to host civil marriages, while Maximilian and Maria Veneranda's house stands on the opposite side of the road to them—though currently under renovation after years left in ruin. □

Source: *De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over de geschiedenis van Aruba)* by Evert Bongers.

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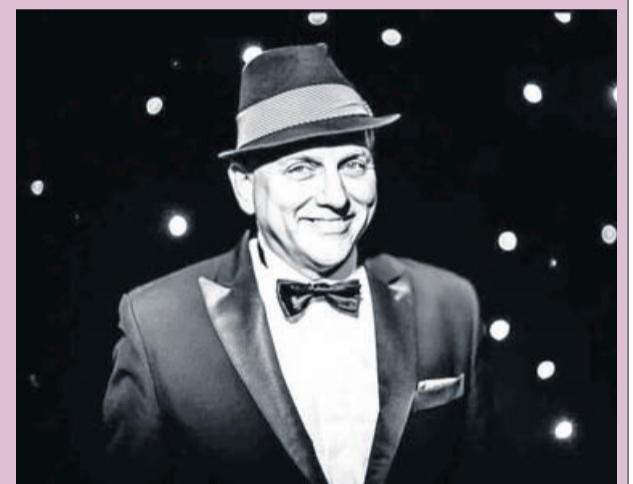


Fred de Jong presents the Aruba Frank Sinatra Show live at The Cinemas

(Oranjestad)—Take advantage of your chance to lounge back and delight in the memorable melodies of one of the greatest entertainers of all time, Frank Sinatra. Join fellow Sinatra fans

for a charming evening of music and entertainment LIVE at The Cinemas!

Presented by tribute artist Fred de Jong, enjoy



his beautiful rendition of some of Sinatra's best hits, including fan favorites from the legend like "Fly Me To The Moon", "My Way", "New York – New York" and more! Sing along to some of Sinatra's rendition of classic Christmas songs and take in the experience in The Cinemas VIP lounging theater for only \$40 per person.

De Jong invites you to be a part of a classy, beautiful evening of jazzy swing classics each Thursday from 7:30 PM to 9PM at The Cinemas in Paseo Herencia. Seating is limited.

Book your seat now at arubasinatra.com/book. Food and drink not included. ☐

Reina Beatrix Airport: Travel Process Update!



(Oranjestad)—Starting April 8th, 2025, passengers flying with Delta, United, Southwest and Spirit will check in at the brand-new U.S. Check-In Terminal.

Note: Until the U.S. Terminal becomes fully operational, all passengers will still go through secondary security screening before heading to the gate. Then on April 29th, all U.S.-

bound airlines—including JetBlue and American Airlines—will officially transition to this new check-in terminal.

What this means for you, starting April 29:

- No more baggage reclaim or rechecking before U.S. Customs
- No additional secondary screening after check-in

For more information please visit our website: <https://www.airportaruba.com/new-us-check-in> ☐

Aruba to me

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Aruba's most family-friendly beaches

(Oranjestad)—One of the biggest concerns that parents have when travelling with their children is a guarantee of their safety and healthy enjoyment. Therefore, we thought it would be a great help to travelling parents to list off some of the most family-friendly beaches around the island.

Baby Beach in San Nicolas

Baby Beach is one Aruba's most popular and visited beaches, and for good reason: This sandy and quiet lagoon is a great place for parents to sit back and relax while their children play in the shallow shores of the beach. Beside the relaxing atmosphere, there are also several services that may accommodate your stay, like a parking lot, sun tent



rentals, chairs, bathrooms and a snack bar right at the far left of the beach.

Mangel Halto in Pos Chiquito

Mangel Halto is situated in the back streets of the Pos Chiquito city. Though there are several stairs on the sides of the beach cliff leading

you down, the best spot for families to hang out is across the bridge, passed the mangrove trees near the entrance sign. Here, there are small and big palapas, perfect for big and small families to set up their belongings. In this area, the shore is also shallow, falling right around your knee before

slowly getting deeper: perfect for kids to safely play.

Eagle Beach/Palm Beach in the hotel area

Yet another highly popular beach site, Eagle Beach and Palm Beach is where most of our visitors go to tan, swim or play in the white sand. Because they are near the low-rise and high-rise hotel areas, these beaches are the most accessible for visitors on foot. These beaches also offer many palapas free to use, but you can also rent chairs and tents. Much like Baby Beach, these sites are one of the best beaches for your children to play and build sand castles.

Boca Catalina in Malmok

Boca Catalina is a small bay beach near the Malmok

beach area further down the hotel areas. Though it may not be a very sandy beach, it is relatively quiet and tranquil. This is a great place for family to lay down a big blanket and have a little picnic. This is also one of the best places to snorkel, as this area is filled with little fish and corals, even close to the shore.

Palm Island

Ok, this one is technically not a beach, but a must-visit attraction for family fun. This small water park oasis is located further down the Mangel Halto Beach and is reachable by boat. This water park offers 6 hours of fun activities, food, drinks, and a chance to see pink flamingos up close! □

Aruban snacks and where to find them



ORANJESTAD — Want to taste something different for a change? How about some Aruban snacks that you can find all around the island? Hop in your car, and go to these locations to find some of the most popular and tasty snacks that are beloved by our locals.

One of the staples of Aruban cuisine and snacks is the Pastechi. Pastechi is a Caribbean fried pastry that is filled with cheese, meat, chicken, veggies and sometimes even fish! Or perhaps you might want to try a croquette, locally called a "kroket," which is a crusty fried snack with typically a meat and dough mix filling. The Aruban kroket is based on its Dutch counterpart, the "bitterbal".

These two snacks are typically found in all local snack trucks,

which can be found all over the island, including on the side of the main road that stretches from San Nicolas to the Hotel Area. You can also find pastechis and kroketts at local bakeries and snack shops, like Bright Bakery in Piedra Plat, Huchada in Santa Cruz or Pastechi House in the city center. These places may also sell other snacks and sandwiches too, perfect for on-the-road lunch break.

While you're at it, why not accompany your snack with a refreshing "batido"? Batidos are fruit shakes,



typically made with added milk for some creaminess. However, you can also ask to hold the milk. Batidos are commonly found in snack shops too. You may find some batido shops next the flea markets downtown, or if you're on your way to San Nicolas, at Mauchi Smoothies and Juice Bar in Savaneta (located at the side of the main road).

If you are looking for something a bit more fresh and healthy, why not try some coconuts, or shaved

ice from local vendors? These vendors carry their little shop at the back of their truck, so they are ever-moving around the island. However, there are a few spots where you can almost always find a coconut/shaved ice vendor:

1. Right next to the Red Anchor in San Nicolas, on the way to Baby Beach.
2. Along the main road next to the airport field.
3. At the California Light House.
4. At the Alto Vista Chapel.

These vendors may also sell other delights, like the beloved coconut-based dessert "cocada" or peanuts. All in all, in Aruba, you can always find some place to take a break and have a bite of something local, you maybe just might have to look for them! □

Photo credit: wheninaruba.com



Did you know about...?

The history and meaning of the Aruban florin

(Oranjestad)—Aruba Today is proud to officially introduce a new segment called Did you know about...?, where we dive into some (historical) facts of Aruba, its culture and way of living. In this first edition, we look back at the Aruban florin: its history, design and symbolism.

In Aruba, we know the 5, 10, 25 and 50 cent coins, along with the 1 and 5 Florin coin. Aruban Florin bills include the 10, 25, 50, 100, and rarely, the 200 bills. In Papiamentu we call our currency Florin, but the umbrella term for money is placa. Cents are called cen (pronounced: seng), both in the singular and plural form. Most coins are circular and their size depend on their worth. However, the 50 cent coin is easily recognizable by their square shape, as is the 5 Florin coin by their golden color. Every coin has the Aruban emblem carved on it, with the other side displaying the worth of the coin. The bigger 1 and 5 florin coins, however, contain the carving of the emblem on one side, while displaying the side profile of the Dutch king, Willem-Alexander, on the other side. When his mother, Princess Beatrix, was reigning queen, it was her profile that was carved on the two coins.

Outdated Aruban coins and their names

In the past, Aruban coins had distinctive names and also varied in worth. For example, a 5-cent coin was once called Dos placa; 10-cent coins were called debchi; 25-cent coins were called diez placa and the 50-cent coin was once called Yotin (pronounced: jo-teen). We also used a distinctive coins worth 2 ½ cents, called placa too. However, this last coin is no longer in use and has become a relic of Aruban money. Back then, the 5-Florin coin used to also be square, but now it is circular.

Aruban bills: their design and symbolism

The Aruban Florin collection contains a variation of colorful bills, displaying incredibly detailed and beautiful designs that tell the story of Aruba on a single piece of paper.

Prior to 2019, the Aruban Florin bills were relatively simpler in design compared to now, but still included beautiful designs and colors, often depicting local animals. These past designs were made by the Aruban



artist Everino Fingal in 1990 up to 2019. Between 1990 and 1993, the 5 Florin coin was a bill. The Fingal designs also included a 500-Florin bill, which has now been discontinued.

In 2019, the Central Bank of Aruba commissioned a new design of the Aruba Florin bills, this time selecting artist and former art teacher, Nigel Matthew, to present his new design. Matthew kept the tradition of including local animals and the familiar colors on the bills. However, he included additional designs that represent the Aruban culture and link to the Indigenous inhabitants that were the first to set foot on the island.

Current design and symbolism 10 florin

On the 10-florin bill, you can see a Turtuga blanco (white turtle). The blue color symbolizes the blue Caribbean Sea. You can also see the ruins of the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins, a coral motif, and the symbols of Cas Floria (traditional Aruban house design) with a piece of mosaic.

25 florin

On this orange bill, you can see an Aruban medicinal plant called Shoshoro. The birds Trupiaal, Shoco, rock drawings, and the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic are also depicted. There is also

a Purun di ceramica (clay pot), in reference to the relics left behind by our indigenous ancestors.

50 florin

On this bill, we see the Cododo (blue lizard found on the ABC islands), Cangreu di tera (land crab), Willem III Tower, and again the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, as well as a beach plant called Banana di rif. The colors are pink/purple.

100 florin

This bill is green in color, representing nature. Here we see the Yuwana (Iguana), Aloe, Toteki (lizard), the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, and a dance group performing the Baile di cinta (folkloric dance with silk ribbons).

200 florin

There is another bill with a value of 200 dollars. The brown color symbolizes the earth of Aruba. Here we see the Dornasol and the Warawara—both local birds, along with the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, the Tuna cactus plant, and the Caha di orgel (folkloric instrument, used for many traditional songs).

Extra fact:

the word “florin” supposedly is named after the Italian city of Florence or it's a reference to the Italian word “florino”, both explanations related to historical Italian currencies.□

Source: Placa, placa, placa by the National Library of Aruba



CROSSWORD

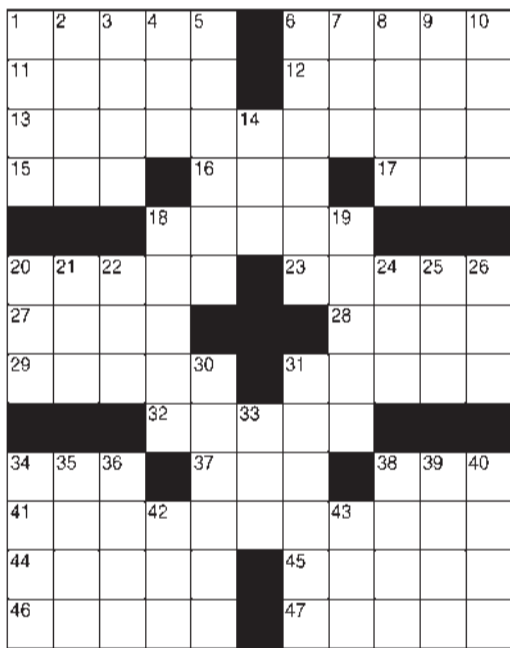
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Tokyo's nation
6 Houston player
11 Find darling
12 "Over There!" writer
13 Bette Davis film
15 CPR expert
16 Star pitcher
17 Writer Stout
18 Skilled
20 City square
23 Western resort lake
27 Compass point
28 Solitary
29 Church areas
31 Star in Orion
32 Winter quaff
34 Atlas page
37 Unruly group
38 London weather
41 Bette Davis film
44 Shoplifted
45 Work byproduct
46 Castle part
47 Bridge costs

DOWN

- 1 Green stone
2 First person
3 Cruise stop
4 Bible vessel
5 Utah neighbor
6 Agree to
7 Lush
8 Role for Chris Hems-worth
9 Quite un-common
10 Cameo stone
14 Bar rocks
18 Ancient Mexican
19 Shire of "Rocky"
20 Stew sphere
21 Trip around a track
22 Cart puller
24 Sty resident
25 Low bill
26 Sushi choice
30 Grave
31 Hearty
33 Pigeon sound
34 Schooner pole
35 Singing voice
36 Work the fields
38 Sense
39 Egg outline
40 Under-stands
42 Bar order
43 Binary base



4-11

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-11

CRYPTOQUOTE

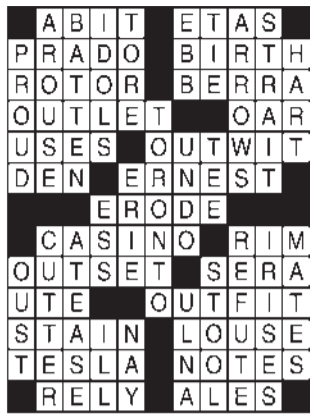
P W C F V O O W Y A N C Y G D A G

Z A D L A Y S W X S N A O N W S O

P W C G W Y ' S S R E A . — U R P Y A

H D A S J E P

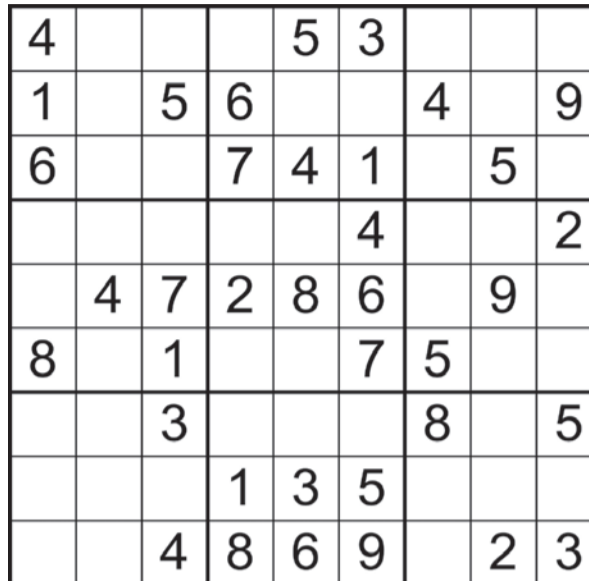
Cryptoquote: THE ONLY
DEPENDABLE LAW OF LIFE: EVERYTHING IS
ALWAYS WORSE THAN YOU THOUGHT IT WAS
GOING TO BE. — DOROTHY PARKER



SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku



Difficulty: ★★

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4/8

Answer to previous puzzle

4	3	5	6	1	2	9	8	7
8	6	1	9	3	7	4	2	5
2	7	9	4	5	8	3	6	1
1	5	8	3	9	6	2	7	4
6	9	7	2	4	5	1	3	8
3	4	2	7	8	1	6	5	9
5	1	6	8	2	4	7	9	3
9	2	4	5	7	3	8	1	6
7	8	3	1	6	9	5	4	2

Difficulty: ★

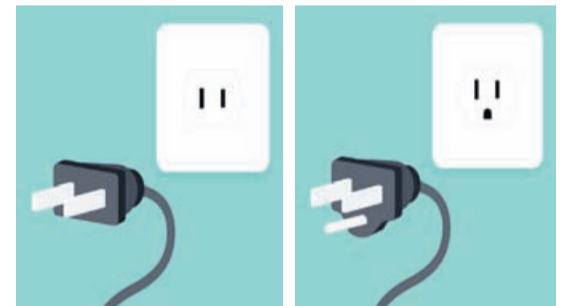
4/7

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.



Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.



Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



Trump tariffs make Easter bittersweet for Swiss chocolatiers

By **MOURAD EL-TOUNI**
Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — With the normally brisk Easter season around the corner, the mood in Switzerland's chocolate business is bittersweet, thanks to high cacao prices and now the newly added U.S. tariffs on imports. Many Swiss, from the government to chocolatiers to watchmakers and other businesses, are sensing "shock" over the tougher American position on trade, but many are also taking a wait-and-see stance. □

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ARUBA TODAY NEWS



Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr. goes from host to guest on PBS' 'Finding Your Roots'

By MARK KENNEDY
AP Entertainment Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — For 11 seasons, Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr. has sat across from his guests on the popular PBS series "Finding Your Roots" and led them through secrets in their family tree. On Tuesday, it's his turn.

The Harvard scholar learns a long-buried puzzle about his great-great grandmother, Jane Gates, information which scrambles his ancestry and opens up a new branch that goes back to Ireland.

"I was moved to tears," Gates tells The Associated Press ahead of the airing. "I used to pass her grave at the Gates' plot in Rose Hill Cemetery and I would say, 'Grandma, I'm going to out you. I'm going to tell the world your secret.'"

"Finding Your Roots" is PBS's most-watched program on linear TV and the most-streamed non-drama program. Season 10 reached nearly 18 million people across linear and digital platforms and also received its first Emmy nomination.

"The two subliminal messages of 'Finding Your



Associated Press

Roots,' which are needed more urgently today than ever, is that what has made America great is that we're a nation of immigrants," says Gates. "And secondly, at the level of the genome, despite our apparent physical differences, we're 99.99% the same."

Season 11 secrets Season 11 has featured Dax Shepard and Kristen Bell, Melanie Lynskey, chef Jose Andres, Sharon Stone

and Amanda Seyfried, who learned why her paternal third-great-grandfather was murdered.

Gates shares the last episode with Laurence Fishburne, who learns the identity of his biological father. It turns out both men adored jazz, which delighted Dylan McGee, who helped create and produce "Finding Your Roots."

"It underscored how family connections can shape

us, even unknowingly, and made me wonder if reconnecting with our past somehow affirms the significance of our own stories by showing us how much each individual on our tree shapes us even when we don't know it," she says.

How it started The series started in 2006 under the title "African American Lives," conceived by Gates in the middle of the night in his bathroom. He

invited prominent Black celebrities and traced their family trees into slavery. When the paper trail ran out, they would use DNA to see which ethnic group they were from in Africa.

Challenged by a viewer to open the show to non-Black celebrities, Gates agreed and the series was renamed "Faces of America," which had to be changed again after the name was taken. Along the way, Gates had a crash course in DNA.

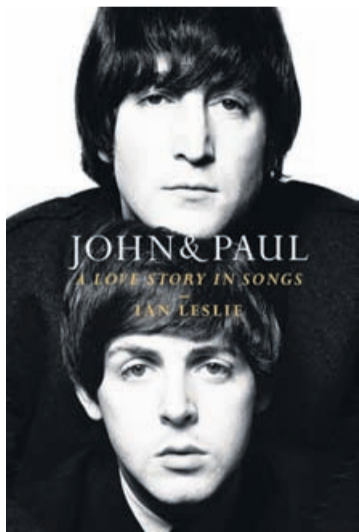
"For a guy with a PhD in English literature, I think I can do pretty well on the AP genetics exam," he says, before proving it with a thorough explanation of autosomal DNA.

Over the years, the show has delivered fascinating results, like when Natalie Morales discovered she's related to one of the legendary pirates of the Caribbean and when former "Saturday Night Live" star Andy Samberg found his biological grandmother and grandfather.

It revealed that RuPaul and U.S. Sen. Cory Booker are cousins, as are Meryl Streep and Eva Longoria. □

Book Review: 'John & Paul' explores complex ties between Lennon and McCartney

By JEFF ROWE
Associated Press
 Ian Leslie's "John & Paul: A



This book cover image released by Celadon shows "John & Paul A Love Story in Songs" by Ian Leslie. Associated Press

Love Story in Songs," takes a detailed look 426 pages at how John Lennon and Paul McCartney worked together from their meeting as teenagers until John's death.

Had McCartney not decided at age 15 to go hear Lennon's band playing in a London suburb, the world would have been denied the multitude of Beatle songs that brightened a generation and brought escalating musical innovation to rock music.

As Leslie affirms in the book, Lennon and McCartney early on developed a personal and creative chemistry that allowed them to elevate each other's work to the timeless song classics still heard around the world.

And into that relationship dives Leslie, analyzing the mountain of articles and books written about the Beatles and interpreting messages the two men were sending to each other in their solo songs, particularly after the band's break-up when both were writing and performing as solo acts.

Leslie focuses on exploring the often-tortured relationship between the introverted, sometimes jealous and frequently depressed Lennon and the more outgoing, driven and business-like McCartney.

Leslie's comprehensive assembly of lyrics, memos and actions of the two men strays into gossip sometimes in his effort to define

their relationship. The book labors to find where the Lennon-McCartney relationship fell in the spectrum of best buds to bromance.

Leslie includes a quote from Lennon, when asked if he ever had sex with a man, answers "not yet." But no other evidence follows that Lennon and McCartney were more than good friends who loved each other as brothers.

Leslie doesn't pursue what might have blossomed musically had McCartney connected with a Lennon-like collaborator after the Beatle founder's passing. What songs might McCarthy and Brian Wilson might have written, for example? Leslie so thoroughly dissects the relationship between

Lennon and McCartney, though, that it is difficult to imagine another creative equivalent partner for either man.

We don't hear from McCartney in this book; Leslie says he thought that would have "unbalanced" the story, given the inability to get an assessment from Lennon.

That's a dubious conclusion but what we can take away from this book is this: Lennon and McCartney were living proof that strikingly different personalities can come together for astonishing results. Might there be someone in the world who has not felt a mood lift from a Beatle song? Good luck finding anyone. □

Ohtani, Betts and World Series champion Dodgers visit Trump at the White House

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump welcomed Shohei Ohtani, Mookie Betts and the reigning champion Los Angeles Dodgers to the White House on Monday to congratulate them for winning the World Series last season. Trump complimented “the very talented people” who beat the New York Yankees in five games, while also refusing to introduce some Democratic senators at the ceremony because “I just don’t particularly like them, so I won’t introduce (them).”

The event came during a manic Monday for U.S. stocks after Trump doubled down on his tariffs.

Trump singled out several Dodgers for their achievements last season, praising Ohtani for becoming baseball’s first 50 home run-50 stolen base player, Japanese pitcher Yoshi Yamamoto and NL Championship Series MVP Tommy Edman.

Trump praised Betts for his play and took a dig at the Boston Red Sox for trading him to the Dodgers and they shook hands at the ceremony.

Betts, the star outfielder



President Donald Trump, in foreground, greets Los Angeles Dodgers' Kiké Hernández, from left, Mookie Betts, Shohei Ohtani and Clayton Kershaw during a ceremony to honor the Major League Baseball 2024 World Series Champions in the East Room of the White House, Monday, April 7, 2025, in Washington.

at the time for the 2018 champion Boston Red Sox, did not make that team’s trip to the White House the next year during Trump’s first term. Betts was on the Dodgers when they won the World Series in 2020 and attended the celebration the following year under President Joe Biden.

The 32-year-old Betts is the

lone Black player on the Dodgers who returned from last season’s World Series team.

“Nobody else in this clubhouse has to go through a decision like this except me,” Betts said over the weekend of his decision. “That’s what makes it tough. But it is what it is. I’m not trying to make this

political by any means at all. All it is is just me being with my team to celebrate something. It’s a privilege to get an invitation like this. I just want to be there with them.”

Manager Dave Roberts had called the invitation a huge honor that each World Series champion gets to experience. Roberts

said deciding to go to the White House was not a formal conversation he and players had.

The trip came almost a month after a Department of Defense webpage describing Brooklyn Dodgers great and civil rights icon Jackie Robinson’s military service was restored after it had come down.

That development came after pages honoring a Black Medal of Honor winner and Japanese American service members were taken down which the Pentagon said was a mistake amid the department’s effort to remove content singling out the contributions by women and minority groups, which the Trump administration considers “DEI.”

Neither Robinson nor any other previous Dodgers greats were mentioned at the ceremony.

Trump did talk briefly about former New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner, whom the former New Yorker called a friend. Trump also poked fun at the late Yankees owner’s notorious short-leash with his managers after he congratulated Roberts. □

Associated Press

NBA record for 3-pointers in a season falls yet again

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

The NBA record for 3-pointers in a season has fallen again.

Boston’s Sam Hauser connected with 6:55 left in the fourth quarter of the Celtics’ game against Washington on Sunday night the 31,580th made 3-pointer of the season in the NBA.

That topped the mark of 31,579 set last season.

This is the 11th time in the last 13 seasons that the league will set a record for 3-pointers per game. The Celtics set the league record for 3-pointers made in a season on Friday and broke the league mark for 3-pointers attempted in a season with their fifth try on

Sunday.

A lot of records

Across the NBA, 3-point numbers have been soaring annually and there’s no end in sight. The rate of 3-pointers made per game has gone up 141% in the last 20 years, 72% in the last 10 years and about 9% from just two years ago.

This will be the first season in NBA history where less than half of the league’s scoring will come from 2-point shots.

The current breakdown: 49.5% off 2-pointers (the lowest rate in league history), 35.6% off 3-pointers (the highest rate in league history) and 14.9% off free throws (the second-lowest in league history).

There are 15 teams on pace to or that already have set franchise 3-point records for makes, attempts or both.

Individual numbers soaring Through Sunday evening, there were 130 players with at least 100 3-pointers this season another NBA record.

And for the first time, the NBA could have three players make 300 3-pointers in a season. Entering Sunday, Minnesota’s Anthony Edwards had 303, Detroit’s Malik Beasley had 301 and Golden State’s Stephen Curry had 293.

Edwards and Beasley both of whom crossed the 300-make threshold on Saturday are the fourth and fifth



Charlotte Hornets guard Nick Smith Jr. (8) connects on a 3-pointer over New Orleans Pelicans forward Bruce Brown (00) to take the lead with 39 seconds remaining in the second half of an NBA basketball game in New Orleans, Sunday, March 30, 2025.

Associated Press

players to have a 300-make season in NBA history. Curry has five seasons of 300 3s or more, James Harden has one and Klay Thompson has one.

And this season’s Celtics

are on pace to be the first team with three players making 250 3s in a season. Derrick White is already there with 258, Payton Pritchard has 246 and Jayson Tatum has 243. □

Alex Ovechkin breaking Wayne Gretzky's record brings joy to hockey and beyond sports

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**

AP Hockey Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Alex Ovechkin could not contain his happiness moments after scoring his 895th goal to break Wayne Gretzky's NHL record.

After firing the puck into the net, Ovechkin turned and did a belly-flop slide down the ice like he had just won a pee-wee hockey game. The gap-toothed grin didn't leave his face for hours.

"We did it!" he told teammates in an electric visiting arena with over 17,000 fans locked in on his every move. "It's history! Yeah!"

Ovechkin was the epitome of joyfulness on goal No. 895, just like he's been on so many of his previous 894, replicating jumping into a fountain in Washington when he and the Capitals won the Stanley Cup in 2018.

"Almost," Ovechkin said.

That title, the franchise's first championship, was the Capitals' high-water mark, but this stuck out in a different way.

The Cup gets handed out once a year. Ovechkin broke a record that stood



Washington Capitals left wing Alex Ovechkin (8) celebrates with teammates after scoring against New York Islanders during the second period of an NHL hockey game in Elmont, N.Y., Sunday, April 6, 2025.

Associated Press

for more than three decades, with the chance for his reign to last even longer. At a time of the season in a team-centric sport that is usually reserved only for playoff races, Ovechkin's "GR8 Chase" captivated the hockey community and reached the rest of the world clearly eager to wit-

ness something special. "It's a testament to Ovi," said center Dylan Strome, who along with Tom Wilson had the assists on Ovechkin's record-breaker Sunday in a 4-1 loss to the New York Islanders. "Everyone wants to see him succeed because he's such a happy guy. It doesn't matter if he

scores a goal or someone else scores a goal: He's just as happy. And I think that's a credit to him and his character, and you could see why other people are so happy for him because of the way he treats other people."

The charismatic Russian superstar has made a career

out of scoring like no one else and commemorating the moments like few others. Whether it was jumping into the glass or mimicking that his stick was on fire, Ovechkin has become one of the faces of the game in part because of his child-like love of the game, even in his 20th NHL season. He is a little kid at heart playing a grown-up sport.

It's a love of the game that resonates far beyond the Capitals.

"You just smile every time you see it," coach Spencer Carbery said, echoing Strome about Ovechkin being just as happy to see his teammates score. "It speaks to him, but also who he is as a captain and as a leader, of the happiness and joy that he has to win and to see others have success and others to score goals, as well."

No team or goaltender wanted to be the one to give up No. 895, but the Islanders and netminder Ilya Sorokin, 10 years younger than Ovechkin, giving the fellow Russian his stick when asked still had full appreciation of the moment. □

Guerrero, Blue Jays agree to a \$500 million, 14-year deal that starts in 2026, AP source says

By **RONALD BLUM**

AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Vladimir Guerrero Jr. and the Toronto Blue Jays agreed to a \$500 million, 14-year

contract that starts in 2026, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press, a deal that removes what would have been the biggest star



Toronto Blue Jays' Vladimir Guerrero Jr. (27) smiles after being tagged at second base by New York Mets shortstop Francisco Lindor (12) during the eighth inning of a baseball game, Friday, April 4, 2025, in New York.

Associated Press

from next offseason's free-agent market. The person spoke on condition of anonymity early Monday because the agreement had not been announced.

Guerrero's deal does not include any deferred money, the person said.

Guerrero agreed in January to a \$28.5 million, one-year contract that avoided arbitration and the four-time All-Star first baseman had said he wouldn't negotiate after he reported to spring training in mid-February. Still, talks with his agent continued well into the regular season.

Guerrero got the third-largest contract in total dollars behind outfielder Juan Soto's \$765 million, 15-year contract with the

New York Mets that started this season and two-way star Shohei Ohtani's \$700 million, 10-year agreement with the Los Angeles Dodgers that began last year and is heavily deferred.

Guerrero's \$35.71 million average annual value under the new deal ranks eighth among current contracts behind the agreements of Ohtani (\$70 million), Soto (\$51 million), Philadelphia pitcher Zack Wheeler (\$42 million), Yankees outfielder Aaron Judge (\$40 million), Texas pitcher Jacob deGrom (\$37 million), Dodgers pitcher Blake Snell (\$36.4 million) and Yankees pitcher Gerrit Cole (\$36 million). A son of Hall of Famer Vladimir Guerrero, the Blue

Jays star turned 26 last month and would have been a free agent this fall at a relatively young age. Guerrero is a .277 career hitter with 160 homers and 511 RBIs. He's batting .256 with no homers and four RBIs in the first 10 games this season.

Seeking its first World Series title since winning championships in 1992 and 1993, Toronto notably failed to land Ohtani, Soto and Roki Sasaki. The Blue Jays agreed to a \$92.5 million, five-year contract with outfielder Anthony Santander, a \$15.5 million, one-year contract with right-hander Max Scherzer and a \$33 million, three-year contract with reliever Jeff Hoffman. □